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I.—DIVISIONS OF LANDED PROPERTY IN PRUSSIA IN 1858.—The following Statement is given by the Correspondent of the *Times* newspaper in his letter from Berlin, of 27th December, 1858.

“No party, whatever affinity it may have to a bubble, can subsist upon wind and nothing else; its interests, as understood by itself, must find expression in some tangible measure or other. One (at least) such measure of the most solid proportions does recur again and again in the speeches and manifestoes of the Feudal Party both in and out of the House. The reaction before 1848, and more loudly since, have never ceased to call for additional *restrictions* upon the free disposal by sale, deed, or testament of Landed Estate. I have already mentioned, in my general review of the legislation of the last eight years, that after a series of attacks the Feudal Party succeeded in striking out of the Constitution Article 42, which guaranteed the general principle of the *free disposal* of real estate. This victory of the reaction, however, has as yet been a fruitless triumph over the letter of the Charter. The statutable guarantee of the absolute rights of the freeholder was indeed torn out of the code. But the practice, endeared to the country by the experience of forty years, had struck too deep roots to be safely assailed. No positive legislative restraints on free disposal could be carried, though proposals to that effect were again and again made. In 1855 the programme of Conservative politics issued by the Right declared it desirable ‘to restore perpetual entails; to do away with freehold estate, and replace the whole of the soil under the conditions of feudal tenure, endowing it at the same time with all the privileges formerly appertaining to the several sorts of fees; and to make “moveables” part of real estate.’

“Wild as this scheme for a return to the feudal tenures of the 16th century may appear, it is not to be supposed that it has no deeper foundation than a mere childish romanticism—a political enthusiasm for the Middle Ages, with all their trappings, tournaments, ordeals, wager of battle, and witchcraft. The Right ground their proposals upon very solid motives of public welfare. They complain of the breaking up of great estates, the dispersion—to use their forcible expression—of the soil of Prussia into particles of dust, the ruin of scientific farming, the waste of forest, and rise in the price of fuel; but, above all, the gradual extinction of the class of Proprietary Yeomen who formerly constituted so considerable a part of the strength of the country. The condition of the French Peasantry, pauperized by the continued subdivision of the land into smaller and smaller holdings, is held up as that to which Prussia is rapidly approximating. All these social evils are alleged to flow from the stern enactments of 1807—11, which destroyed feudal tenure, and made land a marketable commodity.

“These allegations are at least tangible—much more so than the ordinary declamation of the party. The interests involved in this question are not merely Prussian, but are common to all nations. It may be worth while to give a short summary of the facts, and to see what is really the result of 40 years’ experience in Prussia of free disposal of landed property. This question, as one of momentous

consequence, has been very laboriously sifted by economists here, and a large mass of evidence has been accumulated. These discussions and evidence have been carefully summed up in a recent work by President Lette, to which, together with the 'Landeskultur gesetzgebung des Preussischen Staates,' by Lette and Von Rünne, those who wish for further information are referred.

"The ordinances of 1807—11, which removed the restrictions and the feudal burdens on Landed Property, left that species of property thenceforward to the free play of the ordinary laws of commerce and the natural instincts of parents to provide for their children. The result has been that the number of Middle Proprietors, owning between 20 and 200 acres English, has increased at the expense of large estates (*Rittergüter*). But this increase of middle properties is not progressive, but appears to have already reached equilibrium. Secondly, that a number of Cottier Holdings—*i.e.*, below 20 acres English, has been called into existence; *but that this also is not a progressive subdivision, but advances in those provinces where it does advance in a less ratio than the increase of population.* This is the general result, taking Prussia as a whole. The assumed fact on which the complaints of the feudal party rest is false. Infinite subdivision is not in progress. There is a law in operation which checks the tendency to the dispersion of property and the breaking up of farms below the extent at which cultivation is profitable. This is a law of Custom—not of enactment. It consists in that usage traditional not only in the Prussian provinces, but over a large part of Germany and Flanders, by which the peasant-proprietor, at the approach of old age, resigns the ownership as well as the occupancy of his farm to one of his children. This child takes the estate and stock upon it at a moderate valuation, usually below its market price. Upon the footing of this valuation the father's (and mother's) realty and personality is divided among all the children, that child who takes the farm being charged with the payment of his (or her) brothers' and sisters' shares, as well as with a life annuity to the parents. It is customary to stipulate for this life-rent very high, but for the parents to take less than covenanted for. The divisions between the children may be either equal or unequal, but the tendency is to equal division. Where the ready-money for paying the portions of the other children is not supplied by the wife's dower it is easily raised by mortgage. The excellent and simple system of registration of landed property established in Prussia makes mortgage easy. By the system of *Pfandbriefe* a mortgage is made a transferable and marketable commodity, and by the system of *Credit-Instituten* it is made the most secure species of property extant. It will often happen that these provisions for the other children are so charged as to become due by instalments, or as they successively come of age, or on marriage, &c., and thus the incoming possessor is not driven to take up the money all at once. Still, mortgages are very general on peasant properties, but they are rarely or never in Prussia, as in France, for the purchase-money, but are either for working capital, or, as now described, for the express purpose of keeping the property together. Over-mortgaging is rare in the case of peasant properties; not so in the case of large estates. Where a peasant property is too heavily charged the circumstance may usually be traced to extravagant habits in the owner—hardly ever to the family compact. Speaking generally, the Prussian small proprietors are a frugal race, comfortably off; in some districts even intelligent and well-informed. As a class they show no symptoms of disappearing before the encroachments of either cottiers, on the one hand, or large landowners on the other; they are, on the contrary, more flourishing and well-to-do than at any former period of Prussian history.

"This is the general result; each Province has its own peculiar conditions. On the one hand, we have Pomerania, where large properties are the rule, and the cottier is hardly known. At the other end of the scale stands the Rhine Province, in some parts of which the parcelling of the surface has been carried to as great an extent as in France. Notwithstanding, when we take the whole area of this province (the Rhine) we find that only 10 per cent. of the whole is in holdings of under four acres English, while 35 per cent. is in properties of from 20 to 200 acres, and 21 per cent. in estates of 400 acres and upwards. In Pomerania, where there are

hardly any cottiers, no less than 62 per cent. of the total area of the province is in estates of 400 acres and upwards, properties of from 20 to 400 acres forming 33 per cent. of the area. In the province of Prussia, where cottier owners are also few, the area is more equally divided between the *Rittergüter* and the *Bauergüter* than in any other province; 38 per cent. of its area is in estates of upwards of 400 acres English, 49 per cent. in properties varying from 20 to 200 acres.

“Turning to the province of Posen, the following figures of the transfer of land are given by Lette, which are equally inconsistent with the assertion that the subdivision of the surface is advancing at an alarming pace. Between 1823 and 1854 as many as 18 *Rittergüter* in Posen were broken up and sold in small parcels. But, on the other hand, 20 new *Rittergüter* have been created by consolidation of small farms. The area occupied by large estates has actually increased, by favour of the law enacting the divisibility of property, by no less than 6,000 or 7,000 acres. At the other extremity of the kingdom, in the province of Westphalia, a comparison of the register book in the year 1837 with 1851, shows that, notwithstanding a good deal of property changed hands in the interim, the *Rittergüter* were only diminished by two, so nearly had dismemberment and consolidation balanced each other.

“I add the following view of the ratio which the largest and the smallest properties respectively bear to the total area in each province of Prussia;—

Provinces.	Estates of more than 400 Acres English.	Crofts of <i>less</i> than 3 Acres English.
	per cent.	per cent.
Prussia.....	38 ·	0 · 6
Posen .....	55 ·	0 · 5
Brandenburg .....	46 ·	1 ·
Pomerania .....	62 ·	0 · 7
Silesia .....	50 ·	2 · 6
Saxony .....	27 ·	3 · 2
Westphalia .....	15 ·	3 ·
Rhine .....	21 ·	10 ·
Average .....	39 ·	2 · 7

II.—PRUSSIAN ARMY IN 1858.—The following passage occurs in the letter of the Times Correspondent at Berlin, of 31st December, 1858.

“THE Prussian Army consists, as is generally known, of three portions,—1, the standing army; 2, the Landwehr; 3, the Landsturm.

“1. The Standing army is composed of—

Four regiments of Guards, of three battalions .....	12,000
One regiment of Guards, of two battalions.....	2,000
Thirty-two regiments of Infantry, of three battalions.....	96,000
Eight regiments of Infantry, of two battalions .....	16,000

Total Foot .....	126,000
Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, and Chasseurs .....	54,000

Total strength .....	180,000
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“2. The Landwehr. This consists of two parts,—the Landwehr of the first *levée*, which includes all the serviceable men from 25 to 32, and the Landwehr of the second *levée*, composed of all the fighting men between 32 and 40.

“3. The Landsturm. This is composed of all the men capable of bearing arms from 17 to 50, who are neither in the standing army nor in the Landwehr.

“The Landwehr is bound in time of war to serve abroad as well as at home, but only in support of the army. The Landsturm is not required to cross the frontier. The Landwehr, second *levée*, is not called out in time of peace, though it is liable to be mustered for review. This, however, has only taken place on two occasions since the peace, viz., in 1830, and again in 1850. The first *levée* of the Landwehr is liable to be mustered for drill and exercise three weeks in every year, though it has not been the custom to enforce this with the whole of the force. The 1st Landwehr equals in number of regiments the line, but its regiments are stronger than those of the line. It has been usual hitherto to officer it when called out for exercise with officers of the line, deputed for this purpose. What is now proposed is to break up the separate existence of the 1st Landwehr, and to incorporate it with the line. It will not be always on foot, but will be of the nature of a reserve, and will be called out for exercise at least once every year. It will also have its full complement of officers, but it will not be necessary for this purpose to double the number of officers at one stroke. An increase of about one-third, it is supposed, will suffice.”

III.—PRESENT MAGNITUDE OF THE FRENCH ARMY. The following semi-official article appeared in the “Constitutionnel” of 30th January, 1859.

THE Daily News having, in a recent leading article, asserted that in the event of a war France could only send a force of 130,000 men to meet the Austrians in Lombardy, the “Constitutionnel” quotes figures, to show that France could easily bring into the field an army of 500,000 men. Here is the article *in extenso*.

“The Daily News, in its number of the 27th, the favourable tone (*esprit bienveillant*) of which we are happy to recognize, announces that the Emperor Napoleon disposes of 400,000 men; but, if from that amount we deduct 130,000 men which are requisite for Paris, a considerable force at Lyons, and the 70,000 men occupying Algeria, he could only bring into the field in case of a war, 130,000 men. Although we have well-grounded hopes that the Emperor will not have to employ the national forces, we have at hand means to rectify the facts stated by our contemporary. There are, in fact, 70,000 men in Algeria; but our dominion would not be endangered were it to be reduced to 50,000. The garrison of Paris is not now 130,000 strong, but only 30,000. The garrison of Lyons consists of 16,000 men, but it is by no means indispensable there, and might be greatly reduced. We will lay before our readers the official statement (*état*) of the forces of the empire in case of a war, and it will be seen that without having recourse to any extraordinary measure, France might collect a very considerable army. On the 1st of April next, if the whole of the contingent of the class (*conscription*) of 1857 is retained under arms, and no furloughs are granted, the number of men under arms will be 568,000. On the 1st of June, supposing the whole of the contingent (class of 1858) to be called out, the number of men under arms would be 632,000, and with the volunteers, who in case of a war always amount to about 50,000, the total amount would be 682,000. The following table gives the state of the army on the 1st of April, 1859:—

Present under arms (classes previous to 1857) .....	373,400
Men on renewable furlough .....	134,600
Present under arms (class of 1857).....	60,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	568,000

“Although the annual contingent amounts to 100,000 men, it is taken only at 60,000, because every year 18,000 are exonerated, 5,000 are sent into the navy, and 17,800 are sent home to support their families. The men on renewable furlough

are soldiers who have almost invariably gone through the Crimean campaign; they are sent on furlough as a measure of economy, and within a week they might join their corps.

“ The following gives the state of the army on the 1st of June, 1859:—

Present under arms (classes previous to 1857) .....	428,600
Men on renewable furlough .....	133,800
Present under arms (class of 1857) .....	60,000
Volunteers .....	50,000
 Total .....	 672,400

“ The regiments consist of war squadrons, battalions, and depôts. In case of war the depôts would be more than sufficient to secure tranquillity at home, and to fill up the vacancies in the war squadrons and battalions. Let us set down these depôts at

100,000 men, to which may be added  
25,000 gendarmes, Gardes de Paris, &c.  
50,000 for Algeria.

Total.....175,000 men remaining at home.

Deducting the amount from the above total

672,000 men,  
175,000 ”

Leaves ....497,000 men.

Thus France, instead of being able to bring into the field an army of 130,000 men, as the Daily News supposes, could easily muster 500,000 without changing anything in the regular working of her military institutions. We repeat that we do not give these figures to make a display of our forces, or to prepare the public mind for the contest; we have on the contrary a firm belief in the maintenance of peace. But after all, the best mode a great nation has of doing so is by proving that she is not disarmed.”

#### IV.—AUSTRIAN LOAN, £6,000,000, announced in London, 31st January, 1859.—The following Statement is from the City Article of one of the morning newspapers. The Loan has not been effected.

“ THE announcement of an Austrian loan for 6,000,000*l.*, in a 5 per cent. stock at 80, has not created great surprise, and, notwithstanding the terms are considered attractive, there does not appear at present any general desire to support it. The dividend is to commence from the 1st of January, 1859, the reimbursement of the principal to take place by means of a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, to be applied to the payment off at par of the proportionate part of the bonds, to be drawn by lot annually on the 2nd of January, commencing that date 1860. The instalments, including the necessary deposit of 5 per cent., will spread over the period between the 7th of February and the 14th of October, the three first amounts being 20 per cent., and the last two 10 per cent. each. The dividends of the Austrian foreign debt have hitherto been generally met with punctuality, but the credit of the Government does not rank in a high category, and it is quite certain that, after the experience of the last few months in connection with Brazilian, Turkish, and Chilian scrip, the public will not prove large subscribers. The last Austrian loan negotiated by the contractors, Messrs. Rothschild, was 3,500,000*l.*, in May, 1852, at the rate of 90 for every 100*l.*, with an allowance for payments in anticipation at the rate of 3 per cent. On this occasion the discount upon instalments is 4 per cent., and the price of the loan is 10 per cent. lower. The success of that operation was, however, very doubtful, although a portion was

endeavoured to be placed through the Frankfort Bourse, and hence the anticipations now entertained are not of the most sanguine character. The principal sources of revenue in Austria are—the land tax, calculated to produce about 6,000,000*l.*; the tax on goods for consumption, 3,000,000*l.*; salt and tobacco, 5,000,000*l.*; stamp duties, 2,800,000*l.*, house tax, 1,000,000*l.*; income tax, 733,000*l.*; and customs, 2,000,000*l.* The total of the debt is nevertheless very large, and, according to some estimates, reaches upwards of 200,000,000*l.* In such a state of things as at present exists, with financial embarrassment and the uncertainty of peace, it may well be supposed that capitalists will exercise discretion, and not rush blindfold into this security. Very wide quotations have been made for the scrip in anticipation of allotment, and while some of the jobbers call it 2 dis. to par, others give the more probable price, viz., 1 dis. to par.

“Annexed is the official notice issued:—

“*Austrian Loan, for 6,000,000*l.* Five per Cent. Stock, with Dividend from 1st January, 1859.*

“Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons beg to announce that they will receive subscriptions for a loan of 6,000,000*l.* Austrian stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, which loan was sanctioned by the decree of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria on the 31st December, 1858, and for the negotiation of which Baron Brentano, Aulic Councillor in His Imperial Majesty’s service, has been commissioned by his Excellency the Finance Minister, Baron de Bruck.

“The interest on the bonds, commencing from the 1st January, 1859, will be payable in pounds sterling, half-yearly, on the 1st July and 1st January, at the counting-house of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, in London, or, at the option of the holders, at the office for the payment of the public debt in Vienna, at the exchange of 10 florins, Austrian currency, in silver, per pound sterling.

“The bonds will be of 100*l.* each, and numbered from 1 to 60,000. The reimbursement of this loan will take place by means of a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, to be applied to the payment off at par of the proportionate part of the bonds, to be drawn by lot annually, on the 2nd January, commencing on the 2nd January, 1860. The payment of the bonds thus drawn will take place on 1st July following.

“The subscription price is 80*l.* for every 100*l.* stock, payable at the counting-house of Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, as follows:—20*l.* on the 15th February; —20*l.* on the 15th April;—20*l.* on the 15th July; —10*l.* on the 15th September; —10*l.* on the 14th October.

“To subscribers who should prefer payment in anticipation of the above terms, a discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum will be allowed.

“As it is essential that the times of payment should be punctually observed, if the instalments be not paid on the day appointed, the party making default shall forfeit the instalments previously paid, and shall not be entitled, after the day, to claim any bonds or dividend warrants in respect of that or any subsequent instalment.

“The dividend warrants due on the 1st July, 1859, will be deducted from the instalment payable in that month.

“Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons from eleven o’clock, a.m., on Monday, 31st January, and each succeeding day, until eleven o’clock on Monday morning, 7th February next, when the list will be closed.

“All applications to be accompanied with a deposit of 5 per cent., which, upon allotment, will be carried to the credit of each subscriber; if the deposit should exceed the amount of 20 per cent. on the allotment the balance will be returned forthwith.

“New-court, St. Swithin’s-lane, January 31, 1859.”

## V.—FRANCE.—Revenue from Indirect Taxes.—Three Years, 1856-7-8.

(The 000's at unit end are omitted throughout.)

Designation of Taxes.	1858.		1857.		1856.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties on Imports of Wheat .....	26,		49,		107,	
"    "    Merchandise	4,285,		4,609,		4,557,	
"    "    French Col. }	2,079,		1,478,		1,638,	
"    "    Sugar .... }						
"    "    Foreign Sugar	915,		1,192,		776,	
"    Exports .....	152,		72,		66,	
Various Customs' Duties and Receipts .....	140,		98,		103,	
Navigation Dues .....	152,		166,		141,	
	7,749,		7,664,		7,388,	
Tax on Salt levied in the Customs' Districts ..	1,113,		1,183,		1,128,	
"    out of the Customs' }	311,		302,		282,	
Districts .....						
Duties on Wines and Potable Drinks .....	6,633,		6,116,		5,652,	
"    Manufacture of Native Sugar .....	2,555,		1,663,		1,820,	
Various Duties and Receipts .....	1,998,		2,074,		2,029,	
Sale of Tobacco .....	7,091,		6,931,		6,537,	
Sale of Gunpowder .....	400,		450,		443,	
	20,101,		18,719,		17,892,	
Registration and Mortgage Duties.....	11,454,		11,349,		11,431,	
Stamp Duties .....	2,119,		2,184,		2,176,	
	13,573,		13,533,		13,606,	
Post Office .....	2,121,		2,080,		2,057,	
Tax on Money Orders (2 per cent.) .....	65,		67,		69,	
Places in Mails .....	...		1,		6,	
Transit Duties on Foreign Mails ....	59,		44,		27,	
	2,245,		2,192,		2,159,	
Various Receipts.....	1,		1,		2,	
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>43,669,</b>		<b>42,109,</b>		<b>41,048,</b>	

The preceding Table is converted (at 25 f. per £) and re-arranged from the official Returns. As regards the *Direct Taxes* in France, it is stated, that out of 18,541,280*l.* due for 1858, 17,964,560*l.* was paid up to the 31st December, leaving only an arrear of 576,720*l.* The sum paid was (owing to the taxes being payable in monthly instalments only) nearly 1,000,000*l.* more than could legally have been exacted. The legal expenses incurred in collecting it were at the rate of 1·47 fr. per 1000 fr.; in 1857 they were 1·60 fr. per 1000 fr.

VI.—NEW GOLD FIELDS.—BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The following paragraphs occur in a letter from the Times Correspondent, dated at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 17th December, 1858. The Correspondent of the Daily News, writing from the same place at the same time, gives a tabular Statement, the result of which is, that according to local data, the quantity of Gold *exported from* Columbia during the first six months of the discovery, from June to November, 1858, was £200,000; while the quantity exported from California during the first six months after the discovery in that country in 1848, was not more than £50,000.

“Pavillion, Upper Fraser River, November 28, 1858.

“In my last letter, written at the Fountain two days since, I gave you a brief account of a tour through this section of the Mines, promising in my next to say something as to their probable extent, duration, and productiveness. This promise I proceed to redeem:—

“That the auriferous deposits of this region are spread over a considerable scope of country is apparent from the fact that paying Diggings have already been found on the Fraser River, extending from Fort Hope almost to Fort Alexander, a continuous distance of nearly 400 miles. Among the tributaries of this stream, Thompson and Bridge Rivers are known to be auriferous—the latter sufficiently so to have already richly rewarded those who have laboured upon it as high up as 35 or 40 miles from its mouth, while the former has been ascertained to have many bars that will pay in its bed. On two of its conflents—Nicholas and Bonaparte Rivers—good diggings are reported to have been recently discovered. How many more of the numerous branches of these streams shall yet be found abounding in gold remains to be seen, little or no prospecting having thus far been done upon them. Nor is the result of this goldfield likely to be limited to these rivers and their sources. Coarse Gold was found about six weeks since by some packers while exploring for a mule route around Lake Seton. It was discovered on a large creek flowing into the outlet of the lake at a point about 15 miles from the Fraser. The dust was apparently of high standard value. At two places on the Lillooet River bars have been found that will warrant working with a sluice. The first of these is on the east side of the stream, 10 miles above Port Douglas, where a party are washing with sluices with very satisfactory results. When I passed the spot they had been at work but two days; the first day three men took out \$14 50c., the next day \$18. They showed me the gold, which was fine, like that found on the Lower Fraser. The other bar is 20 miles above Port Douglas. It is very extensive, and promises to pay as well as the one first named, though it has not yet been worked. Bars similar to these are abundant on the Lillooet, and the fact of these having been prospected was owing to the accident of a log cabin having been built near them, and not because they seemed more likely to contain gold than the others. For 100 miles above the Pavillion, and beyond what is termed the Canoe Country, the banks of Fraser River have been proved to pay even better than below, the gold being coarser and more easily saved, as well as more plentiful. It will thus be seen that the goldfields of British Columbia, ascertained to be paying, to say nothing of rumoured discoveries beyond, are tolerably extensive. They do not, it is true, rival those of California or Australia in magnitude, but that they cover a large scope of country, and will give employment to a large population, is settled beyond controversy or question.

“To claim that the Fraser River Mines are as rich, or that labour has been generally as well rewarded in them as in the mines of California at an early day, would be idle. I might say much in explanation of the numerous failures that attended the first adventurers to these mines, without making myself their apologist—how the miners came too soon and in too great numbers—how the river kept up, and of the many disadvantages under which they laboured; all might be en-

larged upon were it not now well known to the public. In regard to this section, however, I may say those pioneers who worked here last winter and spring uniformly made large wages, and that those who came in since have been able to remain, paying the enormous prices they have done for provisions, proves that they must have had good paying claims most of the time. The cost of living here, with other necessary expenditures, could not have been less than \$4 a-day to the man, yet I find all have been able to defray their current expenses, while many have accumulated large sums—sufficiently large in a majority of cases, with those who have been here any length of time, to lay in a winter's stock of provisions, even at the present high prices. That better average wages can be made here than in any part of California at present there is no doubt. This can be done even with the present want of ditches and indifferent appliances for taking out the gold. These diggings, owing to the fineness of the dust and the difficulty of saving it, require to be worked with sluices, a mode that has been introduced to but a limited extent as yet, owing to the want of lumber, as well as of wheels or ditches for supplying water. When sluices shall have been generally brought into use more than twice the amount now realized can be taken out to hand. Another cause that will tend to render these mines highly remunerative in the aggregate is, that every man will be able to secure a claim, and that but little capital will be required for starting operations; hence every one will enjoy the full fruits of his own labour, and none need remain idle. For this winter, owing to the lateness with which provisions have been got in, not much will be done; no one here expects it; the utmost that will be aimed at, as a general thing, will be to make enough to pay expenses of living, to prospect a little, and be on hand at the breaking up of winter. With the coming of spring large operations will be entered into, and all here entertain the most sanguine anticipations, or rather, I should say, fullest confidence as to the results.

"That these Mines will be found not only rich and extensive, but also lasting, I am fully satisfied. Apart from their vast extent of surface, the Diggings, at one time thought to be shallow, are now known to run downward in many localities to a good depth. It has lately been ascertained that not only the bars along the river, but many of the lower benches or table lands contain sufficient Gold to pay, where water can be brought upon them, which in most cases can easily be done. These benches are not only numerous, but often of great extent, and would afford employment for a large number of men for many years to come. Little or no search has been made as yet for drift diggings or quartz, though there are abundant indications that both, of a paying character, exist. Fine ledges of quartz, in fact, present themselves almost everywhere, though no thorough examination has been made of their quality. The banks of Bridge River consist of alternate strata of slate and quartz rock, the most favourable possible geological formation for gold. I would venture, then, after having seen considerable of the mines in this quarter, to express the confident opinion that they will prove sufficiently extensive, productive, and lasting to warrant a large immigration to this country in the ensuing season, and that British Columbia is destined to become another great gold-producing region, ranking next to California and Australia in the amount she will hereafter annually yield of this precious commodity.

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